***To Kill A Mocking Bird***: Chapters 3-7 Vocabulary

**Chapter 3 -Vocabulary**

**Amiable** (adj.): friendly

**Compromise** (n.): an agreement where each person agrees to give up something

**Contemptuous** (adj.): to have the feeling that someone or something is beneath you; that it or they are worthless. The Ewell boy obviously feels this way about his teacher, Miss Caroline.

**Contentious** (adj.): always ready to argue or fight

**Cootie** (n.): a slang term for a head louse. A louse (plural: lice) is a bloodsucking parasite.

**Cracklin bread** (n.): a type of cornbread mixed with cracklins (bits of fried pork skin).

**Diminutive** (adj.): smaller than ordinary

**Disapprobation** (n.): disapproval

**Discernible** (adj.): understandable

**Dispensation** (n.): a release from an obligation or promise. In this case, by offering friendship to Walter and promising that Scout won't fight with him, Jem **dispenses** her threat to fight with him more.

**Dose** (of) **magnesia** (n. + n.): A **dose** is an exact amount of medicine. **Magnesia** is a medicine used as a laxative and antacid.

**Eddy** (n.): a current of water that moves against the main current; a whirlpool

**Erratic** (adj.): irregular. Calpurnia usually uses good grammar, but when she is angry, her grammar is irregular.

**Flinty** (adj.): **Flint** is a very hard rock. Something that is **flinty** is extremely hard and firm.

**Fractious** (adj.): mean or cross

**gravely** (adv.): seriously

**Haint** (n.): a ghost or spook; someone or something very scary

**Irked** (v.): to be **irked** is to be annoyed. Scout is annoyed when Jem tells Walter that she won't fight with him (Walter) anymore.

**Kerosene** (n.): thin oil. Kerosene is sometimes used as a solvent or cleaning agent, although its more common use is for fuel or lighting.

**Lye soap** (n.): Lye is a very strong alkaline substance used for cleaning. Lye soap is very strong, harsh soap that contains lye.

**Monosyllabic** (adj.): Mono means "one." A syllable is word or a part of a word which can be pronounced with a single, uninterrupted sound. The name "Atticus," for example, is made up of three syllables: at + ti + cus. Thus, monosyllabic literally means "one sound." Scout's monosyllabic replies to Atticus's questions about her first day at school might have been made up of one-sound words like "yes" and "no."

**Mutual concessions** (adj. + n.): A concession is an agreement; something that is mutual is done by two or more people. Thus, a mutual concession occurs when two or more people agree on something.

**Onslaught** (n.): a violent attack

**Persevere** (v.): to carry on in spite of difficulties

**Tranquility** (n.): peacefulness; serenity

**Chapter 4 -Vocabulary**

**Auspicious** (adj.): favorable

**Melancholy** (adj.): sad and gloomy

**Quelling (of) nausea**: (v. +n.): To quell something is to quiet or pacify it. Nausea is the feeling you get when your stomach is upset and you feel as if you're about to vomit. Scout is trying to quell her nausea, or make her stomach settle down.

**Scuppernongs** (n.): a sweet table grape, grown chiefly in the Southern United States.

**Chapter 5 -Vocabulary**

**Asinine** (adj.): stupid; silly

**Benevolence** (n.): in this case, a generous or thoughtful gift

**Benign** (adj.): kind and gentle

**Bridgework** (n.): Unlike dentures, which replace the upper or lower sets of teeth, bridgework is made up of sections of replacement teeth that can be inserted and removed from one's mouth.

**Chameleon** (adj.) in nature, **chameleons** are tree-dwelling lizards that have the unusual ability to change the color of their skin in order to blend into their surroundings. By calling Miss Maudie a **chameleon** lady, Scout points out the fact that her neighbor's appearance was as changeable as one of the lizards.

**Cordiality** (n.): sincere affection and kindness

**Edification** (n.): education; instruction

**Gaped** (vb.): To **gape** at someone is to stare at that person with your mouth open.

**Inquisitive** (adj.): questioning; prying

**Mimosa** (n): Also called a silk tree, a **mimosa** can be either a tree or a shrub.

**Morbid** (adj.): gruesome; horrible

**Placidly** (adv.): calmly; quietly

**Protestant** (adj.): **Protestant** is the name applied to any number of Christian churches, such as Baptist, Methodist, and Lutheran.

**Pulpit Gospel** (adj. + n.): A **pulpit** is the raised platform or lectern from which a preacher speaks in church. The **Gospel** refers to the teachings of Jesus Christ, specifically the first four books of the New Testament. Scout says that her faith in what she's heard about the teachings of Christ from the **pulpit** (preacher) in her own church has been shaken a bit.

**Quibbling** (vb.): a type of arguing where you avoid the main point by bringing up petty details

**Tacit** (adj.) an agreement, or, in this case, a "treaty" that is tacit is one that has been silently agreed upon. Thus, the children know that they can play on Miss Maudie's front lawn even though she never directly told them that it was all right to do so.

**Chapter 6 -Vocabulary**

**Collards** (n.): a type of cabbage with very coarse leaves. It would be difficult to walk quietly through a patch of collards.

**Dismemberment** (n.): To **dismember** someone is to tear or cut that person's limbs (arms and legs) off. Although it is unlikely that anyone would have actually pulled off Dill's arms and legs, Lee uses the word to point out how outraged Miss Rachel must have been to discover that the children had been playing strip poker.

**Eerily** (adv.): weirdly; mysteriously

**Ensuing** (adj.): Something that ensues is something that comes immediately after something else.

**Franklin stove** (n.): a cast iron heating stove, invented by Benjamin Franklin.

**Kudzu** (n.): a quick growing vine with large leaves, often found in the Southern United States.

**Lattice-work** (adj.): A **lattice** is an openwork structure of crossed strips or bars, as in a screen. Light that passes through any kind of a **lattice** -work would produce lattice-work shadows.

**Malignant** (adj.): dangerous; evil

**Prowess** (n.): superior ability or skill

**Ramshackle** (adj.): loose or rickety; about to **fall** apart

**Respiration** (n.): breathing

**Rigid** (adj.): stiff

**Waning** (adj.): becoming less bright, intense, or strong. The moonlight is waning because it's getting closer to morning, and the moon is changing its position in the sky.

**Chapter 7 -Vocabulary**

**Cleaved** (vb.): stuck

**Gnats** (n.): small, two-winged insects that can bite or sting. [pronounced: NAT]

**Meditative** (adj.): To **meditate** is to reflect upon something, or think about it. When Jem gives the patch on the tree a **meditative** pat, **he** does so in a thoughtful manner.

**Palate** (n.): the roof of one's mouth

**Perpetual embalming** (adj. + n.): Something that is perpetual lasts forever. **Embalming** is the process of preserving a dead body. Think of Egyptian mummies. As Atticus later says, Jem would do well to get rid of the adjective **(perpetual).** The Egyptians invented a type of paper (not toilet paper), as well as **embalming** (which, by its very nature, is **perpetual).**

**Rendered** (her) **speechless:** (vb. + n.): made her unable to speak

**Vigil** (n.): a watch. Jem is waiting and watching for Mr. Nathan to appear.

**Whittles** (vb.): To **whittle** is to use a knife to cut away thin shavings of wood. Sometimes, a whittler may actually end up carving a recognizable object.